

his achievements in working to improve northern Virginia for all of its residents. We appreciate all of his hard work in making northern Virginia one of the finest places to live and work. For those of us that know of Tom's commitment to northern Virginia, it is no surprise that the Northern Virginia Community Foundation has decided to award him their prestigious founder's award at a gala banquet on October 24, 1997. It is a well deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO "CONCERN FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING"

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization that for 25 years has provided housing and career opportunities that have enabled Long Islanders who are recovering from psychiatric disabilities to realize their full potential as productive, happy members of the community.

Founded in 1972, Concern for Independent Living provides an empowering and supportive environment for our Long Island neighbors who are working to achieve a level of independence in the community. As the New York State psychiatric system closes its large hospitals and evolves towards a community-based approach, groups like Concern for Independent Living are critical components in the patient care effort for the 21st century.

Started as a patient advocacy group known as the Concerned Parents and Friends of Central Islip State Hospital, Concern now provides an array of housing opportunities that are based on the consumer empowerment model, whereby residents participate in all levels of management and comprise the majority of the home's board of directors.

To help clients assimilate into the community, Concern offers housing options that range from highly supervised community residences to independent living in apartments and single-family homes throughout Suffolk County. Family, staff, and referral services work together to place clients in the environment that best meets their rehabilitative needs.

Residents of Concern's housing program are also offered vocational opportunities that provides them with real-life training in the business world. Starting with its first job training initiative, a thrift shop program in Central Islip, Concern opened a client-run home, lawn, and garden maintenance business in April 1993. Also placing qualified clients at other, privately operated businesses, Concern offers its residents the invaluable experience of meeting work responsibilities and the satisfaction of knowing that they are a valued, contributing member of the Long Island community.

Mr. Speaker, the programs and opportunities provided by Concern for Independent Living are true models for government-supported, privately operated nonprofit endeavors. They demonstrate that public investment in our communities, when administered in a thoughtful, consumer-focused approach, can make a truly positive impact in the lives of America's citizens. That is why I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Concern for Independent Living on

its 25th anniversary celebration. We are fortunate to have them in Suffolk County.

GE WATERFORD, NEW YORK FACILITY CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it's not often that I can give my wholehearted congratulations to a corporation that, after taking a chance on a new technology, has not only prospered but has become a fixture in our local landscape. I couldn't be speaking of any business other than GE Silicones.

Fifty years ago, General Electric scientists made a breakthrough discovery. They found a way to create a group of products that were so versatile and could withstand such high degrees of heat that they were unlike any other seen before. Realizing the immediate potential for these compounds, GE began construction on a new manufacturing facility designed to develop new applications for silicones. The company chose to locate in a small, rural town called Waterford, accessible by both the Hudson River and the D&H Railroad.

Today, that company has grown into a global business that is 3,000 employees strong and has manufacturing and sales facilities throughout the world. A \$1 billion a year enterprise, GE makes more than 2,000 different silicone products which are used in a variety of industries, including electronics, automobiles, personal and health care, and textiles. It's almost unbelievable that one group of products can be used in so many different ways.

And GE Silicones serves as a vital part of the capital region's economy. Employing 1,500 people locally, the company is a significant contributor to the fiscal strength and stability of our area.

But even as the company continues to expand, GE Silicones has not forgotten the community that serves as its base of operations. I couldn't be more pleased to hear of the company's donations to the Village Fire Department and public library in honor of its 50th anniversary celebration. This is just one more example of the company's commitment to be a responsible and caring neighbor.

On this 50th anniversary, and with much appreciation I congratulate GE Silicones and thank General Electric for its continued investment to our community.

HENRY FORD COMMUNITY
COLLEGE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, MI is celebrating its 60th anniversary. To mark its 60th jubilee, I would like to publicly acknowledge this respected institution's tremendous history of excellence and unparalleled contribution to our community.

Since 1938 Henry Ford Community College [HFCC] has served as a gateway to higher

education for thousands of residents of southeastern Michigan. This institution was established to provide an affordable, high quality college education for students in Dearborn, MI and its surrounding communities.

HFCC has clearly succeeded in meeting these original goals. The college enrolls approximately 20,000 students per year, and has grown to become the fifth largest community college and the tenth largest college in the State of Michigan. I am proud to say that HFCC graduates more than 1,000 students per year. A recent survey showed that 98 percent of HFCC graduates are working in Michigan.

In accordance with the rapidly approaching 21st century, Henry Ford Community College has dedicated itself to keeping pace by continuously renovating and modernizing its facilities and curricula. The completion of the new technology building has provided HFCC with one of the most modern community college manufacturing technology and apprentice training facilities in the Nation. These physical improvements and HFCC's qualified, dedicated faculty provide HFCC students with the training and skills that are needed by today's workers and employers in Michigan and across the Nation.

The success of HFCC's students, faculty, and administration can be directly attributed to their dedication to the legacy of Henry Ford—a legacy of hard work, world-class education, and an eye to the future. Henry Ford Community College has been successful as a leader in education and training, and I believe the school and the individuals who make up its community deserve to be commended.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE GLOBAL
PACKAGE LINE IMPORTANT TO
AMERICAN MAILERS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, soon my colleagues and I on the House Rules Committee will consider a rule for H.R. 2378, the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations bill for fiscal 1998. At that time, the committee will determine whether to grant a waiver for a provision in the bill to limit the U.S. Postal Service from expanding its Global Package Line Service.

Global package Link is a new approach using modern technology to ship packages from large mailers to overseas destinations. Today, companies like J.C. Penny, Land's End, L.L. Bean, and Neiman Marcus Direct can use this service to reach easily and economically consumer markets in Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom. Soon service will be extended to France, Mexico and Singapore.

The U.S. Postal Service was created to provide a business approach to the business of moving the mail. Since that time, the Postal Service has lived up to its charge by introducing new products and services to keep pace with the ever changing market. Global Package Link is the latest innovative mailing option aimed at international business customers.

The Postal Service makes available mail service nationally and internationally to every